IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claim 17 to read as follows.

1-16. (Cancelled).

17. (Currently Amended) A method for manufacturing a cathode, comprising the steps of:

(A) a step of forming a pair of electrodes on a substrate;

(B) a step of forming a film so that the film connects the pair of electrodes; and

(C) a step of forming a gap at the film provided between the pair of electrodes and of forming at least one of amorphous carbon and graphite at a portion of the film facing the gap and in the vicinity of the gap by applying a voltage between the electrodes,

wherein step (B) comprises a step of forming a film comprising a polymer, first and second portions of the film include at least one of amorphous carbon and graphite, and the first and second portions of the film are adjacent the gap and oppose one another on opposite sides of the gap.

18. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 17, wherein the polymer is an all-aromatic polymer.

19. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 17, wherein the polymer is any one of polyimide, polybenzoimidazole, polyamideimide, and polyacryllo nitrile.

20. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 17, wherein the film comprising the polymer further comprises an electroconductive material.

21. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 20, wherein the electroconductive material is graphite.

22. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 17, wherein the film comprising the polymer is formed by an ink-jet method.

23. (Previously Presented) A method for manufacturing an electron source comprising a plurality of cathodes, wherein said cathodes are manufactured by the method according to Claim 17.

24. (Previously Presented) A method for manufacturing an image forming apparatus having an electron source and a light emitting member, wherein said electron source is manufactured by the method according to Claim 23.